

**Minutes of DDS Board Meeting
December 13, 2006
Conyers Headquarters**

Present

Trummie Patrick, Chairman
Billy Fortson, Secretary
Doug Chalmers, Vice Chairman
Kelly Gay
Susan Gordy – voted via conference call

Not in Attendance

Patrick McGahan
David Hanna
Linda Evans

Also present was Joseph Drolet of the Attorney General's Office.

Chairman Patrick called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. at which time a quorum was established. Mr. Patrick stated that since Ms. Gordy was present via conference call for only a short period of time, he would proceed first with agenda items that needed Board approval.

Approval of Minutes from October 11 Board Meeting

After review of the minutes from the October 11, 2006 Board meeting, Chairman Patrick called for a motion. Doug Chalmers motioned to approve the minutes as presented; Billy Fortson seconded the motion with unanimous approval by the remaining Board members. A copy of the minutes from the October meeting is attached as a permanent record to these minutes.

Rules changes for Initial Adoption

LaToya Graham, Deputy Director of Legal Services, stated that she would review the five proposed rule changes and answer any questions. All rule changes were for initial adoption; therefore, only one vote at the end of the presentation was necessary.

375-3-1-.02 – Documentation Required for Initial Issuance. Revised.

This proposed amendment is to modify existing regulation to allow for alternative proof of residency from individuals recently released from the custody of the Dept. of Corrections and alternative proof of identity, and lawful presence from individuals granted asylum in the United States.

375-3-2-.01 – Renewal of License & Identification Card: When License and Identification Cards May be Renewed. Revised.

This proposed amendment is to modify existing regulation in light of changes in the governing statutes, specifically the changes made by H.B. 577, enacted at the 2005 session of the General Assembly.

375-3-2-.02 – Renewal of License & Identification Card: Alternate Means of Renewal. Revised.

This proposed amendment is to modify existing regulation in light of changes in the governing statutes, specifically the changes made by H.B. 577, enacted at the 2005 session of the General Assembly.

375-3-2-.04 – Remote Renewal of Licenses for Military and Students. Revised.

This proposed amendment is to modify existing regulation in light of changes in the governing statutes, specifically the changes made by H.B. 577, enacted at the 2005 session of the General Assembly.

375-3-3-.19 – Parental Revocation of Minor's Driver's License or Permit. New Regulation

This proposed amendment is to modify an existing regulation in light of changes in the governing statutes, specifically the changes made by S.B. 226, enacted at the 2005 session of the General Assembly, which amended O.C.G.A. §40-56-26 to allow for parental revocation of a minor's drivers license or permit.

Chairman Patrick asked if there were any questions. Since there were none, he called for a motion. Billy Fortson motioned to approve all five rule changes for initial adoption; Kelly Gay seconded with unanimous approval by the remaining Board members.

Board Resolution

Ms. Graham reviewed the Board Resolution which would authorize the DDS Commissioner, through the Georgia State Properties Commission, to enter into a revocable license agreement with Public Service Telephone and subsequently, if approved by the General Assembly, granting a 15-foot easement to install fiber optic cable across the property at 8397 Macon Road, Midland, GA where the DDS Columbus Customer Service Center is located. Surveys were reviewed and it was determined that granting this easement would not interfere with the day to day business operations of the customer service center.

Chairman Patrick asked if there were any questions. Since there were none, he called for a motion. Billy Fortson motioned to approve the resolution as presented; Doug Chalmers seconded with unanimous approval by the remaining Board members.

Mr. Patrick stated while Mrs. Gordy was still present via conference call, he would temporarily close the regular public board meeting to go into a closed Executive session to discuss a topic which will also require Board approval; then he will reopen the regular public meeting. He called for a motion to temporarily adjourn the regular meeting; and asked everyone but the Board members, and the individuals presenting the topic for discussion to leave the room for a few minutes. Doug Chalmers motioned to temporarily adjourn; Kelly Gay seconded with unanimous approval by the remaining Board members.

Reconvene

Chairman Patrick reconvened the regular board meeting calling it back to order at 9:45 a.m. He called for a motion to approve the business discussed in the Executive Session. Kelly Gay so motioned and Doug Chalmers seconded with unanimous approval by the remaining Board members.

Commissioner's Report

Commissioner Dozier stated there were several topics which have been previously addressed, but he would provide the Board with an update.

Customer Service Month – October ended the second annual combined Charitable Contributions Program and Customer Service Month. This was an agency wide effort with the goal to show appreciation to customers and recognize superior customer service by employees. The results were:

Agency performance for October: 240,922 customers serviced with an average wait time of 6:38 minutes; 97% of all customers were served in 30 minutes or less; 26 customer service centers are at a 100% performance rate; and only 5 free licenses were given away during the month.

Employee recognition: 55 employees were nominated by co-workers for their superior customer service efforts; all nominations were reviewed by a panel of judges for compliance with the DDS C.A.R.E. model. Of all the nominations, 13 employees were selected to be recognized. The Brunswick Customer Service Center was also recognized for 100% participation in the Charitable Contributions program.

Driver Education Overview – Maria Dorough presented a brief overview and updated information on the Driver Education Program. There are currently 197 licensed driver training schools with 9 pending applications; 1 virtual on-line program has been approved and there are 3 more programs pending. Licensed Driver Training Instructors have increased to 606 and there are 50 pending applications. The Parent/Teen Comprehensive Guide is now available on the DDS Website.

Don Spaller, DDS Webmaster, presented a slide presentation and briefly reviewed the new web initiatives for the Driver Education Program. The DDS School Certification Application is due to go on-line January 1. It will provide a web tool to all DDS' educational partners that will enable all student records (student demographics, grades, class rosters, etc.) to be tracked electronically. DDS Certified Schools will also be able to print standardized certificates of completion when the student passes the course. Initially students will physically take the certificate with them when they go get their license, but in early 2007, the school will submit the certification electronically, placing it on the driving record, therefore eliminating the need for a hard copy of the certificate.

Mr. Spaller stated the Driver Education Web Site – www.gateendrivereducation.com – is targeted towards teen drivers and was developed in partnership with the Governor’s Office of Highway Safety. There have been 12,000 visitors to the website since going live on October 15.

Real ID Update – Ross Potts, Manager of DDS Information Technology, gave a brief review of the history and purpose of the Real ID Act as well as the standards for cards, issuance, authentication, retention, security and data sharing.

Commissioner Dozier stated that all states are well aware of the Real ID Act and the implications it will no doubt have on driver services; unfortunately, states can not take action until the Federal government, Department of Homeland Security, determines the actual rules. DDS is ready to release an RFP as soon as the rules are defined. However, the biggest concern is that time is running out to implement a new system prior to the May 11, 2008 deadline. Through partnership with the National Governor’s Association, National Counsel for State Legislators and the Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, states have continuously asked for a deadline extension, funding to cover implementation costs, and that innovations as far as card security requirements that each state has done that already meet the Real ID requirements be recognized. Unfortunately, until the actual rules are finalized, the impact to Georgia remains unknown.

Legislative Overview

Les Hammond, Director of Legislative Affairs, handed out an article from the U.S. News and World Report with the attached bill that was introduced in the final hours of the lame duck session to do away with the Real ID Act. While this bill died at the end of the session, it is expected that a similar bill will be introduced to Congress when it reconvenes.

Mr. Hammond also provided a handout showing all House and Senate pre-filed legislation for the 2007 session of the Georgia General Assembly, with all bills related to drivers license laws being highlighted. Mr. Hammond briefly discussed what affect these bills would have on current laws and the Department if passed.

Old Business/New Business

Chairman Patrick asked if there was any old or new business to discuss. Since there was none, he reminded the Board that due to a scheduling conflict, the next meeting had been rescheduled from Wednesday, January 10 to Thursday, January 11, 2007.

Mr. Patrick called for a motion to adjourn. Billy Fortson so motioned; and Kelly Gay seconded with unanimous approval by the remaining Board members.

Respectfully submitted,

William D. Fortson, Jr., Secretary